

The requirement to prove ability to send and receive morse code as a pre-requisite to obtaining an amateur license of any class should be eliminated. The time when morse code was the predominant means of radio communication is long past. Now that the international requirement for morse code proficiency is removed, it is time for the commission to bring US amateur licensing up to date.

It is absurd to suggest, as some do, that the morse code requirement somehow promotes better operating practices or ensures a higher quality of amateur licensees. It only keeps away those who are unwilling to spend the hours of study and practice learning an obsolete skill which they may never use.

One of the stated goals of the amateur radio service is "..advancement of the radio art." Radio has advanced. It is time that licensing requirements also advance.

Of the several petitions on this subject (RM-10781 through RM-10787), I think this one (RM-10872) presents the clearest and best recommendations.